

Krista M. Enns

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Overview

Krista Enns is a seasoned litigator and first-chair trial attorney with a focus on complex commercial disputes. Based in San Francisco, Krista is frequently called upon to lead high-stakes litigation in state and federal courts across California and beyond. In the past year alone, she led four trials and prepared for a fifth, underscoring how clients rely on her courtroom acumen and her commitment to taking matters the distance.

Krista regularly serves as lead counsel for clients in cases involving breach of contract and commercial torts. Her arsenal of experience, however, stretches beyond these types of cases. Krista has represented companies and individuals in a wide range of commercial matters, from securities fraud to deceptive trade practices to civil antitrust violations. She also has significant experience with intellectual property disputes, including trade secret matters, and disputes related to California's cannabis business. Krista is deeply versed in the nuances of California state and local procedure, often acting as strategic counsel for multistate clients navigating litigation in jurisdictions up and down the state. Further, Krista has class action experience in both state and federal court, having defended consumer, investor and employee class actions over the course of her career.

Clients from Fortune 100 companies to fast-growing start-ups value Krista's blend of intellectual rigor and pragmatic creativity, whether structuring out-of-the-box settlements, identifying procedural leverage points or advising on litigation risks tied to business operations. Described as both a legal strategist and a trusted business partner, Krista is known for her responsiveness, tireless work ethic and sharp instincts-often anticipating client needs before they arise.

Her recent experience includes defending a Fortune 100 technology company in multiple commercial litigation matters; handling all commercial litigation matters for a California cannabis company; trying a case for a publicly traded company in Delaware Chancery Court; and representing Gould Electronics in high-profile federal CERCLA litigation.

In addition to her litigation practice, Krista actively mentors associates through Benesch's professional development programs, is part of the team developing Benesch's in-house litigation training, and serves on the firm's Risk and Ethics Committee and the firm's Professional Personnel Committee, a committee charged with working with associates and their practice group chairs to ensure professional development and, if desired, attaining partnership.

Representative Matters

- Advised TowerBrook Capital Partners in acquiring a majority stake in Rael, a leading women's wellness brand focused on holistic cycle care.
- Represented Caliva as lead counsel on a joint venture involving cultivation licenses and newly awarded dispensary and deliver license in Los Angeles with a social equity applicant partner. Additionally, represented Caliva with regard to numerous real estate lease transactions.
- Represented Caliva, a direct-to-consumer cannabis brand, as real estate counsel in its acquisition of multiple licensed cannabis operations and several newly awarded dispensary licenses, all in California.
- Represented a Fortune 100 company and its officers in private plaintiff securities fraud and insider trading class actions.
- Preserved a $15.9 million verdict before the Ninth Circuit in a case involving complex real estate and contractual interpretation issues.
- Represented a bankruptcy trustee in a federal bankruptcy court matter involving breach of fiduciary duty and fraudulent transfer claims against multiple former officers and directors of a failed subprime mortgage lender.
- Represented a corporate officer against allegations of misappropriation of trade secrets and breach of fiduciary duty.
- Defended a Fortune 100 company against alleged price fixing by a purported competitor.

Credentials

EDUCATION

- Duke University School of Law, 1999, J.D.
  - Managing Editor, *Duke Law Journal*
- Duke University, Sanford Institute of Public Policy, 1999, MPP
- Pomona College, 1994, B.A.

BAR & COURT ADMISSIONS

- California
- District of Columbia
- U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California
- U.S. District Court for the Central District of California
- U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of California
- U.S. District Court for the Southern District of California
- U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit

Memberships

- Member, American Bar Association, Antitrust Section

Clerkships

- Law Clerk for The Honorable Judge Mary Beck Briscoe, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit
- Law Clerk for The Honorable Judge Oliver Wagner, U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of California

Awards & Recognition

- Listed, San Francisco Super Lawyers, 2015-2019; 2026

News & Insights

- Law360 Highlights Benesch Team Representing Gould Electronics in California Environmental Cleanup Matter
  July 23, 2026 | Media Mentions
- New Lawsuit Challenges California's SB 54 Plastic Regulations-Claiming the Regulations Do Not Go Far Enough
  June 15, 2026 | Client Alerts & Insights
- California SB 54 Is Here: What Companies Using Plastic Packaging Need To Do Now
  May 28, 2026 | Client Alerts & Insights
- California Expands Gift Card "Cash-Out" Rights: What Businesses Need to Know
  April 20, 2026 | Client Alerts & Insights
- California's "Truth in Recycling" Law Raises the Stakes for Packaging Labels
  April 20, 2026 | Client Alerts & Insights
- California Food Fight: The SF City Attorney's Snack Attack
  February 19, 2026 | Client Alerts & Insights
- Krista M. Enns, Steven L. Walsh, Andrew Kinsey mentioned in Law360 | "Chancery Sides With Cannabis Company On Legal Fees Row"
  March 28, 2024 | Media Mentions
- Krista M. Enns and Steven L. Walsh mentioned in Law360 | "Pot Co. Withholding Fees Despite Court Order, Chancery Told"
  March 27, 2024 | Media Mentions
- Benesch Grows West; Opens Office in San Francisco
  October 30, 2023 | Press Releases
- Krista Enns, Lily North and Nicholas Secco mentioned in Law360 | "Forget It, Jake, It's Vernon: Judge Sees 'Chinatown' In Trial"
  August 8, 2023 | Media Mentions